

Application No.: 10/679,607

Docket No.: 200400266-1

Remarks**Claim Objections**

The numbering of claims in this application was objected to as not being in accordance with 37 CFR 1.126. Applicant has corrected the error in claim numbers with this Amendment.

Election/Restriction

Applicant's response to the election/restriction requirement filed on July 25, 2005 has been vacated by the Examiner and in the current office action, the Examiner states this application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: (i) Species I drawn to figure 2; and (ii) Species II drawn to Figure 5. Applicant traverses the Examiner's most recent election/restriction requirement.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for discussing this matter with Applicant's representative on or about December 19, 2005. In response to that discussion, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 7 to more clearly set forth the recited invention and has canceled claims 2, 4 and 5. The remaining claims remain substantively unchanged. As discussed, Applicant submits that its election to continue prosecution of claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 8-11 and 13-17 (drawn to Figure 1) should stand, particularly in light of the current amendments to claims 1 and 7.

In the October 18, 2005 Office Action, the Examiner indicated his belief that none of the claims read on Figure 1. As discussed on or about December 19, 2005 with the Examiner, Applicant respectfully submits that the elected claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 8-11 and 13-17 do in fact read on Figure 1. With reference to amended claim 1 as an example, the "heated roll" is element 100. The "first transport mechanism" moves a print media along path 103 using any known paper transport mechanism, such as drive roller systems or belt transport systems. See, *Specification*, [0015]. The "backing roll" is element 116.

Application No.: 10/679,607

Docket No.: 200400266-1

The "means for supplying a second sheet to the nip" is backing element 120. Finally, the "second transport mechanism" moves the print media along path 113 using any known paper transport mechanism, as described above.

In similar fashion, with reference to claim 8, (i) the "heated roll is element 100; (ii) the "backing roll" is element 116; (iii) the "transport mechanism" moves a print media along path 103 using any known paper transport mechanism, such as drive roller systems or belt transport systems. *See, Specification, [0015]*; and (iv) the "supply mechanism" is "backing roll" element 116.

Therefore, for these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner accept Applicants' election to continue prosecution of claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 8-11 and 13-17 as drawn to Figure 1.

If the Examiner rejects Applicants' above traversal and election of claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 8-11 and 13-17 drawn to Figure 1, Applicants provisionally elect Species II drawn to Figure 5. The same claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 8-11 and 13-17 read on Figure 5.

Application No.: 10/679,607

Docket No.: 200400266-1

Conclusion

If the Examiner has any questions with respect to this communication, he is kindly urged to call the undersigned.

Applicant believes any fee due has been addressed in the accompanying transmittal charging Deposit Account No. 08-2025, under Order No. 200400266-1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: January 12, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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